

REMARKS**Pending Claims**

Claims 1-13 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate claims 2 and 4 and claims 2 and 4 have been canceled. Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form by incorporating claims 1 and 2 into claim 5. Dependent claims have been amended to depend properly from claim 1 directly or indirectly. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1-4, 6, and 7 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Oda (USP 5,608,455). Applicants respectfully submit that claims as amended are not anticipated by Oda at least for the following reasons.

Oda teaches an interline transfer CCD image sensor. The sensor includes a plurality of photodiodes disposed in an optical black area located between an image pickup area and a horizontal charge transfer path, and a processor for calculating a dark current generated in the vertical charge transfer paths and for estimating the dark current components in the image pickup area.

In the Office Action, it is alleged that Oda anticipates all of the elements of claims 1-4, 6, and 7. However, at the least, Oda does not disclose an optical mask that includes a memory field which optically stores the characteristic data of the solid image capturing device, as set forth in amended claim 1. Claim 1 in clean form recites as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A solid image capturing apparatus comprising:
an image capturing device;
said image capturing device includes means for receiving an optical image;
means responsive to said optical image for conducting photoelectric conversion
of said optical image to produce an image output signal;
means for generating characteristic data of said image capturing device to
produce a characteristic data signal;
an output terminal;
means for outputting an output signal from output terminal; and

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Attachments

ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES